

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7026

INFO CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 1374

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASSXX

SUBJECT: FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM (U)

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1. THE GOS IS NOT A RECIPIENT OF GRANT AID. HOWEVER, THE SWEDISH MILITARY DOES PARTICIPATE IN FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING UNDER THE FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAM. INCREASE IN COST OF THESE SCHOOLS WILL PROBABLY BRING ABOUT A REDUCTION OF SWEDISH PARTICIPATION BUT SHOULD NOT HAVE AN IMMEDIATE EFFECT UPON BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE LONG RANGE EFFECT COULD HOWEVER, REDUCE THE EXCELLENT RAPPORT THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES' MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS.

2. SWEDISH MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE ATTENDED U.S. SENIOR SERVICE COLLEGES, VARIOUS STAFF COURSES, PILOT TRAINING COURSES AND SPECIALIZED COURSES. IN ALL CASES, THESE COURSES ARE BASICALLY EXISTING SCHOOLS FOR U.S. OFFICERS. THIS FOREIGN MILITARY TRAINING HAS BEEN BENEFICIAL TO U.S. INTEREST IN THAT MOST OF THE GRADUATES EVENTUALLY OBTAIN HIGH RANK AND INFLUENCE WITHIN THE SWEDISH MILITARY AND AS A RESULT OF THEIR U.S. TRAINING, MAINTAIN CLOSE ITES AND FAVORABLE ATTITUDES TOWARD THEIR U.S. MILITARY COUNTERPARTS. IT MIGHT BE NOTED THAT EVEN DURING THE PERIOD OF STRAINED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOS AND USG, FAVORABLE MILITARY RELATIONS AND PROGRAMS

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CONTINUED.

3. IN RESPONSE TO SPECIFIC QUERIES, PARA 5 OF REFTTEL:

A. THERE WILL BE LITTLE IMMEDIATE EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WHEN INCREASED COSTS BECOME KNOWN.

B. THE SENIOR SERVICE COLLEGES, STAFF COURSE AND SPECIALIZED COURSES ARE OF MOST INTEREST TO SWEDISH MILITARY. IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO EXPLAIN HOW "TUITION" AT AN EXISTING U.S. COURSE SUCH AS NAVAL WAR COLLEGE CAN INCREASE FROM 8000 DOLLARS TO OVER TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS. AS A RESULT, THEY WILL SEEK SIMILAR COURSES IN OTHER COUNTRIES SUCH AS ENGLAND OR FRANCE.

C. ALL COURSES WHICH THE SWEDES ATTEND ARE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT TO THE GOS AND U.S., WITH THE SENIOR SERVICE SCHOOLS BEING OF GREATEST BENEFIT TO U.S. NATIONAL INTEREST IN TERMS OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.

D. THE SWEDES WILL PROBABLY NOT ABANDON PARTICIPATION IN U.S. COURSES COMPLETELY BUT WILL CERTAINLY REDUCE ATTENDANCE AS A FISCAL NECESSITY AND SEEK LESS EXPENSIVE ALTERNATIVES.

E. ENGLAND AND FRANCE OFFER SIMILAR COURSES FOR THE SWEDISH MILITARY PERSONNEL BUT OBVIOUSLY WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF PRO U.S. INFLUENCE WHICH HAS BEEN SO HELPFUL IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

F. SWEDEN IS NOT A GRANT AID RECIPIENT BUT PAYS FOR ALL TRAINING.

4. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE GOS DOES NOT CHARGE ANY FEE FOR ATTENDANCE OF FOREIGN STUDENTS AT THEIR MILITARY SCHOOLS. WE PRESENTLY HAVE ONE EXCHANGE U.S. NAVAL OFFICER ATTENDING THE SWEDISH NAVAL STAFF COLLEGE AND ARE NEGOTIATING TO SEND AN U.S. AIR FORCE OFFICER TO SWEDISH AIR STAFF COLLEGE. THE EXORBITANT INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF U.S. COURSES MAY JEOPARDIZE NEGOTIATIONS.

5. ANOTHER FACTOR TO CONSIDER IS THAT ACCORDING TO DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE OFFICE, THE COST OF THE VOLUNTARY INFORMATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFERED IN CONJUNCTION WITH SEVERAL U.S. SCHOOLS SUCH AS THE SENIOR SERVICE COLLEGES, WILL BE PAID BY THE FOREIGN STUDENT'S GOVERNMENT IN THE FUTURE. THESE ORIENTATION COURSES ARE BASICALLY A LEGITIMATE AND BENEFICIAL "SELL AMERICA" CAMPAIGN DESIGNED TO FAVORABLY INFLUENCE THE FOREIGN STUDENTS IN THE AMERICAN SYSTEM. THIS ACTIVITY IS PROBABLY MORE BENEFICIAL TO THE U.S. THAN TO THE FOREIGN STUDENT AND TO INSIST ON INCLUDING PAYMENT FOR THIS COURSE WOULD NOT PROMOTE U.S. INTERESTS.

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